THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Towards the end of May 1992, the Kerala Arts Lovers Association (KALA), based in Sharjah held a number of functions at the premises of Indian Association, Sharjah. On the 28th of May a drama was staged by the Surya Arts Society, Sharjah which was viewed as blasphemous to Islam and Christianity by the local authorities. Eleven Indian nationals were arrested and the premises of the Indian Association, Sharjah were locked and sealed by the local authorities.

(b) Every effort has been, and is being made at the diplomatic level to secure the release of the detainees. Since the matter is with the court, our ambassador has approached the Ruler of Sharjah for clemency.

As a result of the demarche made by our missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai., the President of the Association was released on acquittal and the treasurer on bail. Out of the 9 persons still under detention, Shri Gogi Francis was released on 20th July and re-arrested on July 22, 1992. The next hearing is scheduled for 9th September, 1992. The premises of the Association have been reopened.

Taking out of Children from the Country

4661. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases in which young children of both sexes were taken out of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that criminal groups are largely responsible for this evil; and

(c) what steps have been taken to root out this evil and to check the foreigners to exploit poor citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

External Publicity

4662. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total amount spent on external publicity during the last three years; and

(b) the maner in which it has been spent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Actual expenditure on External Publicity during the last three years:

1989-90	Rs. 3.88 crores
1990-91	Rs. 3.06 crores
1991-92	Rs. 4.01 crores.

(b) The above expenditure was incurred on production of periodicals and pamphlets, books for libraries and presentation to foreign dignitaries, wireless and cables subscription to news agencies, press delegations, production of T.V. and documentary films, audio/video publicity etc.

India's Assistance in Inspection of Iraq's Nuclear Weapons

4663. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has agreed to UN Inspection Team to enter its Agriculture Ministry building which it was suspected to contain details of the Iraq's nuclear weapons and missile projects;